

In The Mode

The Transportation Quiz

The origins of the Mastodon Museum, operated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, go back the early 1800s when something unusual appeared along a weathering creek bank. Residents knew these strange objects were some kind of bones, but they didn't know from what.

Entrepreneur and museum owner Albert Koch investigated the bones and determined – incorrectly – that they were from a previously unknown prehistoric animal. He named his discovery the Missouri Leviathan and proceeded to travel the world showing it off.

“He displayed it in a P.T. Barnum-fashion,” explains Nancy Smith, historical site manager for the Mastodon Museum. “He basically shipped it around in a circus tent and sold tickets.”

Smith said a British comparative anatomist determined the true nature of the bones while Koch was touring Europe. He convinced Koch they were from a Mastodon, which pretty much ended the sideshow. Koch later sold the bones to the British Museum in London where they still reside.

Continued on page 14



Work zones are a necessary part of building and maintaining Missouri's highways. They're also places where workers and motorists are at added risk.

As you travel around the state, please pay special attention in work zones. Stay alert. Watch your speed. Obey instructions and drive courteously. And always, use seatbelts and child-safety seats.

What's the difference between a safe trip and a crash? The difference is YOU. Drive smart.

Take this quiz to learn more about work-zone safety.

1 Missouri's work zone activities include which of the following?

- a. Construction
- b. Bridge inspection
- c. Mowing
- d. Snow removal
- e. All of the above

2 Between 1997 and 2001, how many people were injured in Missouri work-zone crashes?

- a. 1,057
- b. 2,490
- c. 4,265
- d. 536

3 In 2001, the top contributing circumstance of Missouri's overall work-zone crash total was:

- a. inattention
- b. drinking or drug use by motorist
- c. improper lane change by motorist
- d. driver inexperience

4 Motorists will find work zones

- a. On city, county and state roadways
- b. Only on state highways
- c. Only during daylight hours

5 A truck mounted attenuator is:

- a. an antenna used to pick up radio instructions by field crews more than 15 miles from district headquarters.
- b. a locker that holds orange vests, cones and barrels.
- c. a safety device attached to MoDOT vehicles that absorbs much of the force inflicted by a crashing automobile.
- d. another name for the flashing arrow sign.

6 If a motorist both speeds and changes lanes in an active work zone where workers are present and a warning sign is nearby, they can expect to receive a fine of:

- a. Double the normal speeding-ticket fine
- b. \$35
- c. \$250
- d. \$500 and up

7 How many MoDOT employees have been killed in work zones since 1945?

- a. 16
- b. 23
- c. 45
- d. 67

Answers: 1 – e; 2 – d; 3 – a; 4 – a; 5 – c; 6 – d; 7 – d.

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